

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01  
EB-07 SAJ-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 /087 W  
----- 077127 /11

R 201635Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2727

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, US  
SUBJECT: ATTEMPT BY GDR TO PROTEST RIAS PROGRAM

REF: BERLIN 7312 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: WE CONCUR IN BASIC LINE WHICH EMBASSY  
BERLIN PROPOSES TO TAKE. WE BELIEVE, IN FACT, IT MIGHT  
BE DESIRABLE TO MAKE POINT TO GDR THAT US IS NOT  
PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUCH A MATTER WITH IT AT ALL  
SINCE SIMPLY TO SAY THAT EMBASSY IS NOT RIGHT CHANNEL  
COULD ENCOURAGE GDR TO BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD  
BE WILLING TO DISCUSS BERLIN MATTER WITH IT SUBSTANTIALY.  
END SUMMARY.

2. FURTHER CHECKING WITH RIAS INDICATES THAT BASIC  
GDR FACTS ARE CORRECT. RIAS IS PLANNING TO RUN A  
PROGRAM OF HOT ROCK MUSIC BETWEEN 2200 AND 0400,  
DECEMBER 21-27, THERE WILL BE SEPARATE TELEPHONE NUMBERS  
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FOR LISTENERS IN WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AND IN  
EAST BERLIN AND GDR TO USE TO PHONE IN REQUESTS,  
COMMENTS, ETC. NEITHER PROGRAM NOR FORMAT ARE UNIQUE  
FOR RIAS. STATION IN FACT HAS SINCE ITS VERY BEGINNING  
MADE NO SECRET THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF ITS PURPOSE  
IS TO BROADCAST TO AUDIENCE IN EAST GERMANY, MEMBERS

OF WHICH ARE FREQUENTLY ENCOURAGED TO WRITE OR CALL STATION (THOUGH USUALLY NOT AT A SPECIAL NUMBER ESTABLISHED FOR THEIR PARTICULAR USE).

3. QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHY GDR CHOSE TO PROTEST WHEN THIS RIAS PROGRAM IS SCARCELY DIFFERENT IN FORMAT AND NOT AT ALL DIFFERENT IN PURPOSE FROM WHAT RIAS HAS ALWAYS DONE. CONCEIVABLY GDR INTEREST WAS DRAWN TO PROGRAM BECAUSE THERE WERE ADVANCE STORIES IN BOTH SPRINGER WIRE SERVICE AND IN NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG WHICH MENTIONED THE SPECIAL TELEPHONE NUMBER, BUT WE DOUBT THAT ALONE WOULD JUSTIFY A FIRST TIME EVER PROTEST. OUR SUSPICION IS THAT GDR, PERHAPS ENCOURAGED BY FACT THAT WE HAVE BEEN WILLING TO ALLOW TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS RIAS FREQUENCY QUESTIONS AT LAST YEAR'S GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THAT DEPARTMENT HAS SPOKEN TO ABOUT NEED FOR GDR TO RESPECT STATUS QUO ON RIAS,. MAY HOPE GDR EMBASSY TO BE ABLE TO DRAW US FOR TIME INTO DISCUSSION OF A BERLIN MATTER. GDR CAN SCARCELY EXPECT THAT WE WILL AGREE WITH ITS POSITION ON BROADCAST, BUT IT WOULD BE A SUCCESS FOR IT TO ESTABLISH THAT IT COULD ENGAGE IN A SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE WITH U.S. ON A U.S. OCCUPATION ACTIVITY (WHICH OF COURSE IS WHAT RIAS IS). WE WOULD EXPECT THAT IN COURSE OF TIME GDR WOULD SEEK TO EXPAND ON PRECEDENT. IT WOULD PROBABLY ALSO TAKE INCREASING OFFENSE AT RIAS PROGRAMMING CHARGING THAT IT WAS INTENDED FOR CITIZENS OF A FOREIGN STATE, NOT FOR RESIDENTS OF WEST BERLIN AND THAT GDR WAS THEREFORE ENTITLED TO TAKE ACTIONS TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS, EITHER BY JAMMING OR BY ATTEMPTING TO PREEMPT RIAS OUT  
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OF FREQUENCIES. OUR CASE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS WOULD BE WEAKER IF WE DEPRIVED OURSELF OR ARGUMENT THAT RIAS MATTERS SHOULD BE JUDGED, NOT LIKE THOSE OF ANY OTHER STATION BROADCASTING ACROSS BORDERS, BUT AS OCCUPATION MATTER BEYOND GDR COMPETENCE.

4. WE THINK DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE BETWEEN TECHNICAL EXPERT DISCUSSIONS ON FRINGE OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND UNILATERAL REMINDERS BY DEPARTMENT OF IMPORTANCE TO US-GDR RELATIONS OF GDR NOT ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE STATUS QUO ON ONE HAND, AND EXCHANGES OF SUBSTANTIVE VIEWS ABOUT RIAS ACTIVITIES ON OTHER HAND. WE WOULD THUS FAVOR SHORT PROMPT RESPONSE WHICH WOULD MAKE TURN POINTS THAT EMBASSY IS NOT COMPETENT TO DISCUSS BERLIN MATTERS AND THAT US IS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTER WITH GDR.

5. GDR STATEMENT TO SENAT, INCIDENTALLY, WAS MADE

ALMOST CONCURRENT WITH THAT TO EMBASSY DURING MEETING  
DECEMBER 16 OF VISIT ARRANGEMENT COMMISSIONERS. SENAT  
REP REPLIED THAT SENAT WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR RIAS.  
GDR REP SAID HE HAD CERTAIN UNDERSTANDING FOR SENAT  
POSITION IN THIS INSTANCE BUT WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THT  
"THE ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTY" TO WHOM GDR WAAS ALSO  
PROTESTING HAD PERCEIVED MATTER AS VERY SERIOUS. GDR  
REP ADDED THAT SENAT HAD CERTAIN COMPETENCE SINCE AS  
"THE MANAGING STATE" FROM WHOSE TERRITORY BROADCAST WAS  
COMING IT OUGHT TO PREVENT PROGRAM. SENAT PLANS NO  
FURTHER RESPONSE TO GDR STATEMENT. WE WOULD PROPOSE  
TO ADVISE SENAT OF WHATEVER RESPONSE IS MADE TO GDR  
APPROACH TO EMBASSY. DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, RADIO BROADCASTING, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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